



NEWS BRIEF



What makes GSSM *Students* so SPECIAL?

TRY...

- ✓ Deeply committed
- ✓ Passion to reach people for Christ
- ✓ Servant hearts
- ✓ Willingness to Sacrifice

Now let me introduce to you four of these special students.

You won't want to miss their incredible stories...

1. Meet *Olivia* from *Uganda*...

Olivia is working with 60 children in a poverty-stricken area of her country. 30 of these little ones have recently accepted Christ through her program and she is now discipling them as well as assisting them with a variety of needs.



2. Several 100 miles south of *Uganda* is the small country of *Malawi*. Meet *Henry*...

Henry pastors a church, formerly played on the Zambia National Soccer Team and served as their Captain. This fired up pastor has organized a soccer outreach to a large number of young men in his capital city. 120 teenagers are coming to his program and plans are underway to expand this outreach to other age groups including girls. Many of the youth have already responded to the Gospel, are being discipled and are now involved in their local churches.



3. Racing back to *Uganda*, Meet *Justin*...

As a young boy, *Justin* was abducted by rebels and forced to become a child soldier. As he started this horrific journey, he was forced to kill his parents while a pistol was held to his head. Later he was ordered to kill two of his friends who had tried to escape...rifles were pointed at him if he failed to obey.

Deeply traumatized, this young man finally escaped after eight years living with the rebels in the bush.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2...



JUSTIN continued...

While receiving counseling he became a Christ follower and later enrolled in GSSM's training program. Justin is a bright, articulate young man who is deeply committed to our Lord. He now oversees a prison ministry where he conducts weekly programs. The majority of these young inmates have accepted Christ and are being disciplined by this dynamic young leader.



4. Finally, I want to re-introduce you to Jimmy, one of GSSM's graduates.

Jimmy lives in a slum and is married. His wife is expecting their first child soon. Not long ago, I asked Jimmy, who most thought would be the least likely to succeed, how in the world did he ever start such a huge ministry in a pair of slums bordering the capital city of Uganda?

Here is his reply: ***"I started with prayer. Next I found myself burdened for these two large slums both essentially Muslim communities."***

Jimmy goes on to state that as he entered the first slum he spotted 5 boys playing with a torn, worn-out soccer ball that someone had probably discarded. As Jimmy approached these 5 boys, he called out to them and asked to talk to them. ***"Do you have a coach?"***, Jimmy asked. ***"No"***, they replied. ***"Would you like to have one?"***, Jimmy responded. ***"Yes"***, they said and shortly thereafter when he had received permission from the government-appointed warden of the slum, Jimmy began meeting with these five boys teaching them a variety of soccer skills. Before long many others joined the 5 and a new ministry was born.

At first, Jimmy states, he did not share the Gospel. ***"I just wanted to become their coach...I wanted these young boys to trust me, respect me, to be their friend."*** And that is exactly what happened as Jimmy prayed for this growing ministry. As the numbers swelled, Jimmy began each practice session with a prayer. At first the group was a bit confused as these were not Muslim prayers.

JIMMY'S story continues on page 3...



Jimmy's feeding program

Jimmy's story continued...

Jimmy's prayers were different, more personal and the boys liked them. In fact they even asked Jimmy to pray at the end of each training session as well.

Attempting to find funds and needed items to assist the children with numerous needs seemed impossible. When he asked his friends to help, they simply walked away except for 2 different young men who said they might help but only if they could make a profit. Jimmy shook his head and went back to his knees. **Surely God would provide.**

Before long, another **friend of Jimmy's agreed to help with the slum ministry.** He assisted Jimmy to coach the growing number of players turning out for this specialized training. Soon he, too, was overwhelmed by the needs in the slums. Together, **Jimmy and his friend dug deep in their shallow pockets** and came up with a small amount of money to start a feeding program for the most needy. **All that they could afford to buy was a few stalks of sugar cane.** They "fed" their growing team with sugar cane twice a week.

Jimmy and his friend continued to ask for help from anyone who would listen. **Little by little donations of used clothing, shoes, blankets and some money began to arrive.** Not much, but it was a start. The donated items were given out immediately to the most needy.

At this point Jimmy introduced the Gospel to scores of children and the response was incredible. Most of the children wanted to become followers of Christ and learn more about what it means to be one of his disciples. As these new believers grow in their faith, **Jimmy trained a number of them to be leaders.** Now **children are leading children,** developing programs of their own and sharing the Good News.

Conclusion on



As of this writing, Jimmy's programs in the 2 slums have the following components:

1. **Sports Programs** *Involves over 350 youth in 2 slums.*
2. **Feeding Program** *Feeds 300 children each day targeting the little ones in greatest need. The meals now consist of rice, beans, porridge, tea-milk and whatever else he can afford to purchase. Often his meals are like the fish and loaves of bread. When it seems there is not enough to feed the hungry mouths that show up, somehow the food stretches and everyone gets a proper portion that will help them through the day.*
3. **Children's Choir** *You must see it to believe it! Beautiful music flowing from the lips of children who have embraced the Saviour. They perform in the slum churches and in the slums themselves. Brings tears to my eyes each time I picture them.*
4. **Slum Soccer Teams** *have been organized by Jimmy and his coaches. Most of the players are now believers and they are being trained to go out to nearby schools and challenge other teams. Most importantly they will share their faith and proclaim the Good News to the*

5. **AIDS & Orphans** *Many single mothers whose husbands died of AIDS or fled the slums to "find work" are left to take care of the children. Unfortunately a large number of these single mothers are dying of AIDS. Thanks to Jimmy, he has given them hope as they have responded to the Gospel and are now part of the Kingdom. However, what happens to the children when the mother dies? Many of them have asked Jimmy to care for these soon to be orphans. Jimmy is trying to find a way to help and hopes to establish a half-way house/orphanage to care for these little ones until a home in a Christian family can be found. GSSM will attempt to provide a grant to help Jimmy purchase or rent a building to care for these unfortunate children. Your prayers would be much appreciated.*

Jimmy sums things up by stating that everything he learned from GSSM he has now applied to his amazing programs. **How we praise God for Jimmy.**

On behalf of the students and staff of GSSM, **THANK YOU...**

for standing with us as we prepare dedicated young men and women to go into the harvest fields of the world. Your prayers and support make it possible to equip students like Olivia, Henry, Justin and Jimmy to be on the front lines proclaiming the Good News to a world desperately in need of our Savior.

Thanks for caring and giving as God leads and enables you!

BLESSINGS! Russ Carr

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(Coming September 2014!!!)

